



## Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

### Friday Khutbah

5 Apr 2019 / 29 Rejab 1440H

#### Appreciating Our Wives

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي غَمَرَ صَفْوَةَ عِبَادِهِ بِلَطَائِفِ التَّخْصِيسِ طَوْلًا  
وَإِمْتِنَانًا. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ  
مُحَمَّدًا نَبِيًّا وَرَسُولًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ الْمُصْطَفَى  
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ وَاقْتَدُوا بِهِ قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا وَعَدْلًا  
وَإِحْسَانًا.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ. وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا  
وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

**Blessed Friday Jemaah,**

Let us together increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t by following His commands and avoiding His prohibitions.

## **My Brothers,**

As the end of Rajab approaches, so too does the beginning of the holy month of Sya'ban. Sya'ban, as described by Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. in a hadith reported by Imam An-Nasa'i, is the month during which our deeds are presented to Allah. It is a month filled with goodness and virtue. Therefore, on this virtuous day and month, I would like to call upon every one of us here to improve ourselves so that we are written among the righteous ones when our deeds are laid out before Allah s.w.t.

## **My Brothers,**

Let us reflect on a hadith mentioned by the Prophet s.a.w., in which he promises goodness for every Muslim individual who practises this. He s.a.w. said:

**خَيْرُكُمْ، خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ، وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي**

Meaning: *“The best of you are the best to their families, and I am the best of you to my family.”* [Hadith reported by At-Tirmizi].

Subhanallah! As I reflected on this hadith regarding akhlaq, it becomes apparent that it ties together three things: the completion of our Iman is connected to excellence in our character, and excellence in character is connected to the way we treat our families.

This hadith is indirectly telling us that in determining a person's virtue or moral uprightness, we should look at how he interacts

with his family. Given the importance of this topic, this month's khutbahs will highlight matters pertaining to family.

### **My Brothers,**

Let me begin by stating that Islam places great emphasis on how one should treat his wife. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Ar-Rum, verse 21:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ  
بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

Meaning: *“And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed, in that are signs for people who give thought.”*

### **My Brothers,**

So vital is a wife's role in the Islamic view that the Prophet s.a.w. tells us:

أَكْمَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَانًا أَحْسَنُهُمْ خُلُقًا، وَخَيْرَكُمْ خِيَارًا لِنِسَائِهِمْ

Meaning: *“The most perfect of the believers in faith, are those who excel in good character, and the best of you are those who are best to their wives.”* (Hadith narrated by At-Tirmizi).

To the husbands listening to this khutbah, know that Islam stresses the importance of a husband 's treatment and manners towards his wife. Those who claim to love the Prophet s.a.w. should follow what he has commanded. Those who love the Prophet s.a.w. should love what he loved. How can one claim to have a love of Muhammad s.a.w. in his heart, when he does not treat his wife well?

### **Brothers,**

There is no denying that life as husband and wife is not without its challenges and obstacles; especially if we have been married for many years. Thus, today I wish to shed some light on what we can do when faced with those challenges.

### **Firstly: Directing our attention to the positive aspects of our marriage.**

This is indeed an invaluable piece of advice rooted in prophetic tradition. None of us is perfect – not us, not our wives. As such, it is inevitable that we will find flaws in our significant other. However, if we concentrate solely on the negative, it will eat away at the harmony between our spouses and us.

The Prophet s.a.w. said:

لَا يَفْرَكُ مُؤْمِنٌ مُؤْمِنَةً إِنْ كَرِهَ مِنْهَا خُلُقًا رَضِيَ مِنْهَا آخَرَ

*“A believer must not hate a believing woman (i.e. his wife); if he dislikes one of her characteristics, he will be pleased with another (Hadith narrated by Muslim).*

Therefore, my brothers, let us focus on the positive traits of our wives. What do we like about our wives? What has she sacrificed for us and the family? By appreciating her good qualities, it increases the likelihood that we will treat her with warmth and affection.

**Secondly: Work on fulfilling our spouse’s rights, rather than demanding our rights be fulfilled.**

If everyone demanded every single one of their rights to be fulfilled fully and completely, peace would almost be an impossible endeavour. How can there be harmony and love between husband and wife, when all they are concerned with is their own rights?

My dear brothers, listen to what Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 228:

وَلِلرِّجَالِ عَلَيْهِنَّ دَرَجَةٌ

Meaning: *“But, the men have a degree over them [i.e. their wives].”*

I would like to highlight the tafsir, or interpretation, of this verse. This interpretation might differ quite a bit from our current

understanding of it. Often, our reading of this verse is that husbands are superior in rank and authority over their wives.

Imam al-Tabari presented Ibn 'Abbas' interpretation of the verse which diverges from the common understanding. According to him, this degree that men have over their wives as mentioned by Allah s.w.t. is due to their willingness to compromise their rights, while simultaneously striving to fulfil all their wives' rights.

**Dear Brothers,**

Marriage is a journey to be walked together. The moment we utter the words, "I accept her marriage", it is a solemn promise to care for our wife, to treat her well, and to shoulder these new responsibilities that Allah has given us. So make no mistake my brothers; Allah s.w.t. will indeed hold us accountable for these responsibilities on the Day of Judgement.

We ask Allah s.w.t. to grant us the patience and strength to guide ourselves and our families towards Allah's mercy and pleasure. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارِكِ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ  
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ  
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ  
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ يَا  
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ يَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.